

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KATHMA 01215 181101Z

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ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 H-02 AID-05 /018 W

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P 181040Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4559

UNCLAS KATHMANDU 1215

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC (GROVE, THOMAS ARTHUR)

SUBJ: W/W THOMAS ARTHUR GROVE

REF: STATE 063234

1. PACKET CONTAINING GROVE'S PAPERS WAS REPORTEDLY FOUND NEAR CHARIKOT (DOLAKHA DISTRICT), A THREE-DAY WALK FROM KATHMANDU KODARI ROAD, SOMETIME BETWEEN MID-DECEMBER AND MID-JANUARY BY AN ITINERANT NEPALI COOLIE WHO TURNED THE PAPERS OVER TO ANOTHER NEPALI ABOUT FEBRUARY 23. THIS NEPALI IN TURN GAVE THE PAPERS TO A THIRD NEPALI WHO TURNED THEM OVER TO THE EMBASSY MARCH 6.

2. NO MONEY WAS FOUND IN THE PACKET, BUT THERE WAS ONE TEN-DOLLAR TRAVELLERS CHECK, COUNTERSIGNED WITH GROVE'S SIGNATURE OR A FORGERY THEREOF.

3. THE NEPALESE POLICE AUTHORITIES HAVE TAKEN THE NEPALI WHO REPORTEDLY RECEIVED THE PAPERS ON FEBRUARY 23 INTO CUSTODY AND HE IS CURRENTLY ACCOMPANYING THE POLICE TO SEARCH FOR THE COOLIE WHO CLAIMED TO HAVE FOUND THE PACKET ORIGINALLY.

4. HIMALAYAN RESCUE ASSOCIATION, WHICH CONSISTS OF TWO VOLUNTEER MEDICAL PERSONNEL LOCATED IN NAMCHE BAZAAR AND PHERICHE ON THE MAIN TRAIL TO EVEREST BASE CAMP, DOES NOT HAVE FACILITIES FOR INVESTIGATING CASES OF THIS NATURE.

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5. WE ARE KEEPING CLOSELY IN TOUCH WITH THE POLICE

AND URGING THEM TO EXPEDITE INVESTIGATION. CARGO

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976KATHMA01215
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760102-0521
From: KATHMANDU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760347/aaaabpli.tel
Line Count: 62
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SCSE
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 63234
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: wolfsd
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 JUN 2004 by chengls>; APPROVED <08 SEP 2004 by wolfsd>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: W/W THOMAS ARTHUR GROVE
TAGS: CASC, (GROVE, THOMAS ARTHUR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006